

**CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
1400 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, MADISON  
May 7, 2002**

**PRESENT:** Kelly Coleman, Craig Gramke, Glen Porter, III, Jon Ruatti, David Stucki, and Tim Tysver

**EXCUSED:** Marie Drescher, David Weiss and Jim Ullom

**STAFF PRESENT:** Clete Hansen and Jacquelynn Rothstein

**GUESTS:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Clete Hansen, Division Administrator.

**AGENDA**

The agenda were informally approved.

**MINUTES (2/5/02)**

**MOTION:** Glenn Porter moved, seconded by Tim Tysver, to approve the minutes, with amendments to correct Craig Spoerl's name on page 2 and to correct a sentence in the middle of the page to read: "Glenn Porter reviewed SB 233, prohibiting construction of a new highway through a veteran's cemetery." Motion unanimously carried.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**Division Administrator's Report**

- **Oscar Herrera**

Oscar Herrera discussed the reorganization of the Department, the Department's budget and major initiatives in Governor Scott McCallum's Budget Repair Bill.

- **Committee Membership Roster**

Kelly Coleman stated that her telephone number is 920-592-0110. Her street address is 1831 Sahara Court. Jon Ruatti said his cell phone number is 920-366-7120.

- **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2002, at 9:30 a.m.

- **DRL Organization Chart**

Clete Hansen explained some of the changes relating to the Division of Board Services, the Division of Credentialing and the Division of Enforcement.

- **To-Do List**

Noted

## **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Revision of Cemetery Laws**

The Committee discussed several provisions in 2001 Assembly Bill 776, with the understanding that this bill contained many of the items that were negotiated by representatives of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, municipalities, cemeteries and funeral directors during meetings arranged by Ed Huck last year. Clete Hansen pointed out that he would urge Secretary Oscar Herrera to prepare a new proposal that would include many of the negotiated items, but to remove all provisions relating to a cemetery management fund. The Committee expressed its understanding of Hansen's intent. Some Committee members again indicated that the cemetery management fund provisions are not as important to them as these provisions are to Representative Johnny Morris-Tatum and the Department.

Glenn Porter stated that the requirement that a cemetery authority include an annual list of burials in its annual report is still in this bill, even though there had been discussions about removing it.

**MOTION:** Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by Tim Tysver, to leave s. 157.10, Stats., as it exists in the current Wisconsin Statutes. Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION:** Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by Glenn Porter, to prohibit a municipality from confiscating the principal in the care funds of municipal cemeteries. Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION:** Glenn Porter moved, seconded by Tim Tysver, to change the draft so that s. 157.11 (9g) (a) 2. applies to religious cemeteries. Motion unanimously carried.

The Committee agreed that it would like to review a new draft prepared by the Department before the draft is sent to the LRB for drafting.

### **Proposed Regulation of Crematories – LRB 2804/P4**

Clete Hansen stated that this proposal has not been placed in the Senate version of the Budget Repair Bill, even though last-minute efforts were made to have it included in the bill.

Clete Hansen said that the Funeral Directors Examining Board will want to have this proposal introduced in the Legislature early next year.

Hansen also stated that there has been some on-going discussion about including an inspection component in the proposal. Hansen asked whether the Department of Commerce, the Department of Regulation and Licensing or funeral directors should do the inspecting.

Jacquelynn Rothstein and other Committee members suggested that it is hard to be specific about the need for an inspection component without being clear about what we would be looking for in an inspection.

The Committee informally suggested that it should wait for more information from lobbyist, Patrick Essie and the Funeral Directors Examining Board about what they would expect from an inspection. The Committee also informally agreed that it might be well for several funeral directors and several cemeterians to meet and propose some language for the proposal.

Rothstein and Hansen raised the issue about whether a person, while still living, should be able to authorize the cremation of his or her body after death. The Funeral Directors Examining Board did not provide for this alternative in its proposal. The Committee acknowledged that it had discussed this issue before, but the Committee did not reiterate an old position or express any position at this meeting.

#### **Other Issues Raised by the Committee**

None

#### **Funeral Services Consumer Protection Forum**

No discussion.

### **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION**

A communication from Alderwoods, Inc., and a list of Wisconsin crematories that are members of CANA were noted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business to report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by Craig Gramke, to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 12:02 p.m.